



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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*Testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 3, 2010*

Raised S.B. 341

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF DRIVERS' SCHOOLS AND DRIVING INSTRUCTORS

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would like to thank the Transportation Committee for considering this proposal and raising S.B. 341, which seeks to make changes to three statutes governing the licensing of drivers' schools as part of a larger effort to improve administrative efficiency and oversight of these business licensees. DMV supports S.B. 341.

A project is currently nearing completion to submit revised and updated regulations pertaining to driver schools for review and approval. However, portions of that work are contingent upon the enactment of the changes proposed in this bill.

Section 1 amends the current language by requiring that the background check performed on each applicant conform to standards adopted for operators of public service vehicles such as school buses or taxis. It also contains a technical adjustment changing a license period from a "calendar year" to "one year" to enable the Department to stagger the expiration dates of the licenses in order to provide a more efficient work flow. Currently, all such licenses expire on December 31.

Section 2 applies the same standards for background checks to each driving instructor and requires the instructors to report an arrest or conviction for a misdemeanor, felony, or drug/alcohol offense to the Commissioner within forty-eight hours. This proposal is similar to the requirement that holders of commercial driver's licenses notify their employer of similar events.

Additionally, the proposal provides clear authority for the Commissioner to establish, through regulations, master instructors to train driver instructors. Such master instructors would be subject to the same background and review standards as driving instructors.

Through these provisions, DMV seeks to provide greater protection to the public while concurrently improving the administrative elements for more efficient monitoring and oversight of the industry. In conjunction with the refinement of the regulatory framework, we believe that the interests of the motoring public and highway safety will be well served.